

1908 — is a valuable guide to the literature of the subject, and will be of great use to future investigators of this general region. The large number, of half-tone plates and text figures are an important addition to the report and include, besides maps of the general region and of the life zones, several distribution maps for the more important species of mammals, many landscape views, and views of the Hudson Bay Company's posts, including some of the old Forts of the early days — landmarks of the greatest historic interest. As already implied, Mr. Preble's report is a mine of information regarding the early exploration and present and past conditions of the vertebrate fauna of arctic and subarctic Canada.— J. A. A.

**MacFarlane on the Birds of Northwestern Canada.**<sup>1</sup>— In 1891 Mr. MacFarlane published in the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum (Vol. XIV, pp. 413–446) his 'Notes on and List of Birds and Eggs collected in Arctic America, 1861–1866.' The present 'List of Birds and Eggs' covers a subsequent period (1880–1894) of the author's explorations, and relates mainly to observations made "in the northern portions of the new Province of Alberta; in New Caledonia, in British Columbia; and Cumberland, in the Province of Saskatchewan." The observations are fragmentary, and the reader will share with the author his regrets that he did not continue "at Forts Simpson, Chipewyan, St. James and Cumberland House, where he was successively stationed from 1866 to 1894," his observations with the same interest and assiduity as at Fort Anderson in previous years. His shortcomings in this respect he holds up as a warning and a stimulus to the officers of the Hudson Bay Company and others who may visit or traverse northern Canada as surveyors and prospectors to do whatever they can "in the way of elucidating and otherwise advancing the Natural History of the great Dominion."

The list includes about 220 species, the annotations averaging rather more than a page to each; while they include much original information they are often extended by quotations from various published sources, notably from Bendire's 'Life Histories of North American Birds.' These, however, are always pertinent, since much of MacFarlane's ornithological material was sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and passed through Major Bendire's hands, thus forming his principal source of information on the nesting habits and breeding ranges of northern birds. Incidental reference is made, under nearly every species, to the manner of its representation in the Ottawa (Dominion) Museum, with a view of inspiring

<sup>1</sup> Through the Mackenzie | Basin | a Narrative of the Athabaska and Peace River | Treaty Expedition of 1899 | By | Charles Mair | English Secretary of the Half-breed Commission; Author of | Tecumseh: a Drama, etc. | With a Map of the Country Ceded and numerous photographs of | Native Life and Scenery | Also | Notes on the Mammals and Birds of | Northern Canada | By Roderick MacFarlane | Retired Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company | — | Toronto | William Briggs | 1908 — 8vo, pp. 494, map, and 25 half-tone plates.— 'List of Birds and Eggs observed and collected in the North-West Territories of Canada, between 1880 and 1894,' by R. MacFarlane, pp. 285–447. \$2.00; by mail, \$2.25.

interest in its deficiencies. To a certain extent, the present 'List' gives a résumé of the results of MacFarlane's long period of natural history work in northern Canada, and as such is a contribution of unusual interest. The numeration and nomenclature are those of the A. O. U Check-List, but through some inadvertence, a number of the water birds follow the Passeres, with no note of advice or warning that such is the case. Also, on p. 422, the heading "636. Black and White Warbler — *Mniotilta varia* (Linn.)" is given twice; as its second use evidently relates to that species, the preceding species is left nameless and not easily identifiable.

Mr. MacFarlane's 'Notes on the Mammals,' occupying pages 151-283, and preceded by a portrait of the author, is an especially important contribution to the mammalogy of the region, the statistical and geographical information respecting many of the fur-bearing animals being exceedingly valuable. The nomenclature of the list "has been carefully revised by the naturalists of the U. S. National Museum," and is hence fully up to date, and stamps the list as thoroughly trustworthy.

Mr. Mair's portion of the work, occupying the first 150 pages, gives a vivid picture of the topographic and climatic conditions of the country traversed by the treaty expedition of 1899, of which he was a member, and contains also much historic information of fascinating interest. Mr. MacFarlane's portion of the work contains descriptions and illustrations of a number of the old Hudson Bay Company's posts, the names of which have long been household words in natural history annals — Forts Anderson, McPherson, Chipewyan, Resolution, Good Hope, etc.— J. A. A.

**Knights' 'The Birds of Maine.'**— In a portly volume<sup>1</sup> of nearly 700 pages, Mr. Knight has given the ornithological public a useful manual of the bird fauna of the State of Maine. The analytical keys and the descriptions of the species, it is stated, are compiled and adopted from Ridgway's 'Manual' and 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Chapman's 'Handbook,' and other standard sources. The descriptions are followed by a brief summary of the distribution, including breeding and winter ranges, followed by the county records of the species, with the authorities, a list of which is given in the Introduction. The life histories are largely based on the author's own observations and experience, and vary in length, according to the species, from a half page to several pages, and relate mainly to the bird's occurrence in Maine. The nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. Check-List and its Supplements down to the Thirteenth, the Four-

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Maine | With Key to and Descriptions of the various | species known to occur or to have occurred | in the State, an Account of their Distribu- | tion and Migration, showing their relative | abundance in the various Counties of the | State as well as other regions, and con- | tributions to their Life Histories | By | Ora Willis Knight, M. S. | Member of Maine Ornithological Society, Member American Chemical Society, | Member American Ornithologists' Union, Etc. | Bangor, Maine | 1908 — 8vo, pp. vii+693, map, and 25 half-tone plates. \$3.50, express paid. Regular edition, 200 copies; subscription edition, 300 numbered and signed copies.